

Details Contributions To City by Businesses

To the Editor: I read with interest a letter to the editor in a recent issue of The Eccentric in which the writer asked two questions.

First: "When, if ever, will the residents of this community be able to at least put in check this growing commercial cancer which feeds on adjacent property owners?"

Second: "Who are the individuals lining their pockets with silver while the rest of the community sleeps, apparently not concerned with the commercial speculation of the area south of Shain Park?"

THE EDITOR of The Eccentric endeavored to answer the questions by informing the writer of a few pertinent facts concerning the CBDD Committee, their plans and the zoning status of the downtown area.

The assessment of the business interests in Birmingham as "commercial cancers" reaches further than the writer realized. Let me illustrate:

The Oxford Universal Dictionary defines cancer as a malignant growth. Further, this same authority defines malignant as having an evil influence or tendency towards the misfortune of another.

IF ONE were to follow the above writer's apparent implication, I wonder how many Birmingham

business and professional men and women realize that they are "an evil influence"; or how many of the employees of the same business men and women are aware that they are participating in ventures "that are desirous of the misfortune of others"; or how many of the thousands of residents who patronize these same business men and women are "contributing to this evil influence." Quite ridiculous, it seems to me, in any language.

THIS SAME writer wants to know who the individuals are that are, so called, "lining their pockets with silver with speculation of the area south of Shain Park?"

Let me remind the above writer that the City of Birmingham on behalf of all its residents, purchased this parking lot area south of Shain Park just as it did when it purchased for our city hall, Baldwin Library, Shain Park, fire stations and all other publicly-owned property.

There is no individual, but several hundred men and women who are a normal part of this great America, working shoulder to shoulder to make this city an enjoyable place to live and shop.

THESE MEN and women are merchants doctors, lawyers, realtors, salesmen, public officials, teachers, city employes and many others.

They are participating in all sorts of community activities such as supporting the United Goodwill

tion, supporting The Community House, the YMCA drives, service club groups, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the volunteer firemen and police and the multitude of other interests which are a part of good community life. They are members of the school board, the city commission, the PTA and, above all else, they support their churches.

VERY IMPORTANT are the thousands and thousands of dollars that they pay in all forms of taxes. In a short period of 13 years, my \$400,000 store has contributed, both in taxes and paid fees, over a million dollars of the support of our schools, our city, state and nation.

This does not include the taxes my landlord pays on the property I rent, or the taxes my employes pay on their homes and personal property. These same business and professional men and women pay millions in payrolls to resident employes and others. Scores of these people have 24-hour-a-day roots in Birmingham.

THE CITY of Birmingham has not reached its glorious position as a fine residential and business community because of the residents alone, nor because of the business interests alone. It has become a popular suburban area by the cooperation and perseverance, the hard work and the millions of dollars of all its citizens.

If we are going to have a beautiful and orderly city with a prime residential and business climate, we must have a city government that is interested. We must have a commission of men and women who are capable of fair consideration for all peoples.

I HAVE NO quarrel with any man who exercises his right to speak out for his ideas. This is an American heritage.

I like to live in Birmingham. My business has been a profitable venture for 13 years into which I have invested my life's earnings. Aside from the fact that our customers like our merchandise and our services, they patronize our store because they know it is profitable for me, for them and is thus an asset to the community.

OUR RESIDENTS are aware of the continuous improvements being made in Birmingham's business and professional establishments. Such activity, of course, accomplishes two things:

First, it increases the ability and convenience of a citizen to purchase goods and services.

Second, it also becomes an increasing sharing of the taxes necessary to support our city and county governments and our public schools.

In brief, the ideal American community is one where the residential atmosphere is well developed and maintained and also where these residents may find convenient and satisfactory sources for their physical and cultural needs.

In conclusion, I ask, would you have it any other way?

RICHARD H. YOUNG 203 Pierce St. Birmingham

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

Proposes More Publicity On Crimes by Teen-Agers

To the Editor: In Birmingham missing the boat? This thought came to me as I read an article last night in the April issue of Bear's Digest entitled "Open House for Young Hoodlums," condensed from a December, 1963, article in the American Legion Magazine.

To quote from the sub-title: "In his courtroom, a Montana judge is slashing juvenile-felony rates by meting out large doses of punishment—and publicity!"

Are we in Birmingham plunking into the hands of the youngsters

Teacher

(Continued from 1-B) school districts just by writing to them, and I suppose it will be difficult to dispose of some of those teachers who would, for example, that most of the higher paying districts in the state also have tenure; but my eyes have been opened.

There is no question in my mind now that tenure is going to create a class of problems in getting rid of people we don't want. I wonder if you realize, however, that you uncovered the solution when you said, "good teachers don't want it (tenure) and, of course, don't need it."

IT TAKES a good factual editorial like this to let teachers know what's going on in the world outside the classroom.

I had always thought, for example, that most of the higher paying districts in the state also have tenure; but my eyes have been opened.

There is no question in my mind now that tenure is going to create a class of problems in getting rid of people we don't want.

I wonder if you realize, however, that you uncovered the solution when you said, "good teachers don't want it (tenure) and, of course, don't need it."

IF THAT'S SO, let's just ask our present staff who is in favor of tenure and who is against it and keep the ones who are against it.

It wouldn't take long to get rid of all those unfortunate unprofessional civil service type people.

There might be a small problem in some schools like mine. For some reason 26 of the staff in our junior high signed a memorandum asking that a telegram be sent to Mr. Hogan urging tenure support.

But if Bloomfield Hills is to survive, it's just this kind of MEASUREMENT that has to be stopped. If it's don't want any more of the people deprived, do we?

TED CAVIN, Teacher Bloomfield Hills Junior High School

Facts

(Continued from 1-B) Beverly Hills, we are also residents of Oakland County and owe certain responsibilities as such.

5. Birmingham and the county have agreed to pay the entire costs of the improvement and Beverly Hills is asked for only a bit of cooperation free from cost.

6. It is pure fiction to say that property values will depreciate; values on Fifteen Mile (Maple) Road have not.

7. I asked a lawyer friend of mine who has had considerable municipal experience what the county might do if Beverly defeats the undertaking; and he said that if he represented the county, he would seek remedial legislation to permit condemnation and the establishment of an assessment district with costs of the improvement assessed against Birmingham, Beverly Hills and property owners on some recognized basis.

If this should eventuate, there would be red faces in Beverly Hills, might want?

H. J. GUENTHER, 19528 Riverside Drive Birmingham, Mich.

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who commit these crimes "to see if they can get away with it" by suppressing publicity to protect their records?

SOME VERY nasty rumors have come my way, which I do not repeat because I have no basis of fact. However, one case I can repeat because it involved my college freshman son and a friend driving early one evening on one of our respectable residential streets.

A side window of the car suddenly disintegrated and it they turned in that direction in time to see a window in a house closing.

They rang the doorbell and learned that a young guest in the home had been taking pot-shots at the mail box, and missed—the mail box, that is. The boy was taken to his home and the matter discussed with his father.

LATER, OUR son and his friend were advised to talk to the police, having in mind that others should be protected from pot-shooters.

Instead, the young lad was "protected" from a blot on his record, unless there should be a failure on the part of the boy's father to rectify the damage done to the car. Think about that, and put in a few "ifs"—if the shattered window had been beside the driver and—if another car had been approaching.

Are we doing more damage to more people by protecting our youth from a mark on their records? How about protecting the rest of us from pot-shooters?

HOW ABOUT protecting our daughters from injury or death by publicizing the records of the teen-age drivers? How about protecting the unsuspecting parents who allow their teen-agers to go to supposedly chaperoned parties, only to learn later the host parents weren't there, and did not know the police were called to take care of a teen-age drinking party?

How about protecting the law-abiding teenagers and their reputations, by publicizing the law-breakers who should really get the blame for these actions?

I RECOMMEND that every thoughtful parent and citizen in Birmingham read this article, and give it some very serious thought. I believe the threat of publicity, after one warning, as the article suggests, can do more to cut down the number of second-time offenders, than almost anything else.

I believe that a campaign in this direction, with its accompanying publicity, would do wonders in cutting our so-called crime rate.

True, there would be people hurt by such publicity, but I believe there would be more people hurt if these crimes are allowed to go unnoticed and the offenders protected.

MRS. A. HOOK Birmingham

Names Were Used Without Permission

To the Editor: We wish to state that our names were used in a political advertisement in the Thursday, March 26 issue of The Birmingham Eccentric without our knowledge or consent.

BILL AND BETTY REDDICK 185 Hawthorne Road Birmingham, Michigan

Thank You, Too

To the Editor: In reply to the Furgusen Family letter of March 17, 1964, issue in the People's Column: Our pre-teen-ager (so described), 3 1/2 years old, wishes to thank you—for calling him a "Darling."

THE SEVEN HOYEMS

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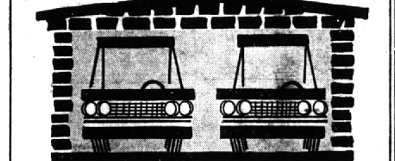
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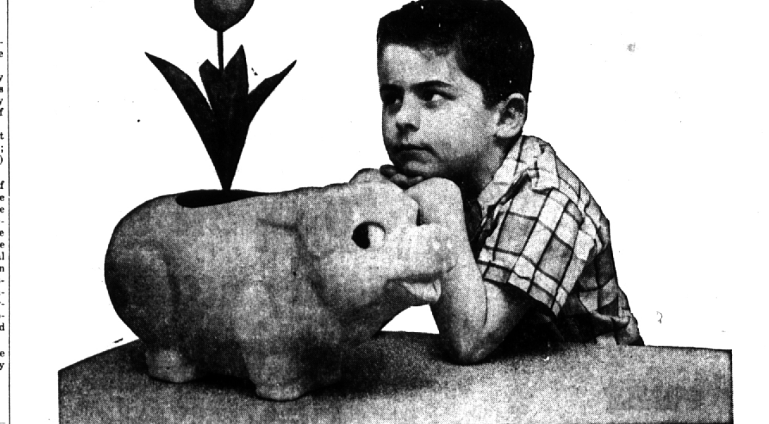
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